14090/C/1

3½

AN

ORATION,

DELIVERED ON THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9, 1826,

BEFORE THE

Hunterian Society:

WITH

SUPPLEMENTARY OBSERVATIONS;

AND

ENGRAVINGS.

BY

SIR WILLIAM BLIZARD, KNT.

F. R. S.; F. A. S.; F. R. S. ED.; SOC. R. GOTTING. CORRESP.; HON. PROF. OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON.; SURGEON TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER, AND TO THE LONDON HOSPITAL.

PRINTED FOR THOMAS AND GEORGE UNDERWOOD,
No. 32, FLEET STREET.

WELLCOME
HISTORICAL
MEDICAL
LIBRARY

CARPENTER & SON, Printers, Aldgate High-Street.

TO

WILLIAM BABINGTON, M. D.; F. R. S.,

PRESIDENT:

TO

THE VICE-PRESIDENTS:

TO

THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

AND TO THE OTHER VALUABLE MEMBERS

OF THE

Hunterian Society;

THIS ORATION

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY THE AUTHOR.

AN

ORATION.

OPINION, be it founded in truth or error, governs thought, and action; and is indefinite in extent of influence.

Although it may be formed from a passing and trivial incident; and its impression, on promulgation, be limited to a few minds, yet, at some period, by successive communication, the whole intelligent race of mankind may bear a stamp of its original character.

Such reflections naturally pressed on the mind of your first Orator. For, however light his admitted authority, he presumed that it would be sufficient

to give some direction and force to the observations which he might offer; and paused, in apprehension, that, from defect of knowledge, or judgment, he should fail in his endeavour to impress correct opinion.

His fears have been increased by the recollection of circumstances, unfavourable to his undertaking.

Had he duly considered, that, in his preparative labour on the occasion, the most formidable interruptions, from imperative calls of public duty, would happen, he must have declined the assigned task: but his obligation to the performance of it appeared irrevocable.

Moved by such sentiments and feelings, he resolved on submitting to this learned assembly certain facts; not only as appearing to be generally interesting; but also specially proper on the occasion.

The controlling circumstances of his situation required, that he should proceed in a desultory manner, as more likely to promote the final intention

of his discourse, than by any arrangement of ideas, the attempted order of which would be frequently broken.

What is the object of an Oration in this place?—The Honour of the HUNTERIAN SOCIETY; by the impression of Truths, upon minds ever prompt to receive them for the advancement of the healing art.

Societies of every description have the power of counteracting, in various ways, the prevalence of evils existing within their distinct spheres of cognizance.

An observer, through a long period, of the tenour of conduct of professional men, now invokes the energies of this Society against reigning practices; adverse to the cultivation of sound knowledge, and of pure principles; disgraceful to individuals; and deeply affecting the happiness of the community.

Alas! the prospect of mingled characters in the Metropolis is appalling.—Are we not daily called upon to recognize as Surgeons, Men, ignorant of the

structure of organs, whose functions determine the condition of every fibre of the body, professing extraordinary faculty in treating diseases of distinct parts, whose affections are produced by remote morbid actions?—Have we not daily pressed into our hands artful appeals, to excite the movements of humanity, and munificence, for the purposes of individual interest, by the establishment and support of institutions, of various descriptions, injurious to that system of cultivation and communication of professional knowledge which has the approving seal of experience? Publications, for vile and sordid purposes, shocking to decency, and degrading to the human character? Pamphlets, and journals, vehicles of calumny and falsehood, intended to excite and gratify the most debasing passions latent in the heart of Man.—Do we not daily witness charlatanical conduct, under all the modifications of art, and the mask of sincerity, in men, whose endowments, directed by correct sentiment and feeling, might have sustained them in the even track to eminence and fortune?

High and permanent professional character can be the consequence only of the exercise of sound know-

ledge, upon principles of truth, and simplicity, such as moved the excellent Dr. BAILLIE.

He who assumes the professional character on a weak foundation of knowledge, impelled, principally, by the desire of riches, and presumptuous in the pursuit of fame; may flourish awhile in the splendour of lucre: but, be his days prolonged, and he will descend from his height of vanity, into the low condition of insignificance and contempt.

Whereas the man who bends all his faculties to the attainment and improvement of that knowledge which he would gladly exercise in the service of humanity, for the sole gratification of his own feelings; will, in time, unconsciously, acquire that high, and unfading lustre of character, which is the reward of undeviating exemplary conduct.

The uniform example of the learned PRESIDENT, and the well-directed steps of the members of this Society, in the different walks of medical science, illustrate the influence of the principles to which the Speaker has offered his homage: and, tacitly,

express abhorrence of those practices which it is his duty to expose.

The order of general society depends, greatly, upon the harmonious movements of its various corporate establishments.

The public benefits of the legally constituted medical authorities in the metropolis, are results, principally, of their concurrent determinations.

The spirited exertions of these bodies, in correction of the deplored evils, would be the performance of a sacred duty, to themselves, and to the general community.

The Speaker will stay this cheerless theme, in rational expectation, that such duty will be fulfilled.

The HUNTERIAN SOCIETY sprang from the purest motives of honourable men: it was formed, not in the spirit of illiberal opposition; not for the proud display of knowledge; not for the acquisition of prevailing eloquence, by the suppression of modest feeling; not for the cultivation of the

sophistical art of veiling error in the garb of truth; not for any purpose, but the promotion of medical and chirurgical science; by oral communication of recently ascertained facts, ingenuously and simply stated; and by perspicuous written comments on truths which have not been duly cultivated.

The designs of institutions of a similar character have been so frequently expressed, on various occasions, that any remark on their utility, by the promotion of liberal sentiments and conduct, in addition to scientific information, would be unnecessary.

The mind of HUNTER was ever bent on inquiry relating to animal fabric, and function; and on the application of his knowledge in promotion of the healing art.

Such a disposition moved the highly endowed commentator of MORGAGNI,* when, with firm intention, he proposed the establishment of this Society; and while, with unremitting zeal, he has

* On the Seats and Causes of Diseases, investigated by Anatomy abridged, and elucidated with copious Notes, by WILLIAM COOKE.

pursued the object to its present advanced prosperity. May the honoured name of HUNTER ever have a magic influence on the minds of its members!

Impelled by such influence, the speaker will endeavour to engage the further attention of his indulgent auditors.

The isolated character of his facts cannot lessen any intrinsic value which they may possess; in minds prepared to receive, and to employ, every observation to its utmost extent of utility.

The erudite and ingenious SIR THOMAS BROWN, KNT. corrected many errors which had been handed down by philosophical authority; and which the lively author termed "*Vulgar Errors.*"

The genius of HUNTER would have been well directed in the correction of many errors, generally admitted, and reasoned upon, as truths, relating to animal structure, and function.

But all his moments were employed in produciug from hidden recesses of nature, truths, to which

as tests, assumed facts, and fallacy, might ever, with corrective certainty, be referred.

Allow a brief indulgence in this strain.

How vaguely is the word cavity used! What is strictly understood by it?

How wary should men be in the use of the high faculty of speech; lest unmeditated association of ideas should follow the utterance of a single word!

What consequences, in physiological reasoning, and pathological conclusion, follow the correct admission, of an elastic halitus in all the spaces designated cavities: and in the cellular fabric of all the organs of the body!

What reflecting inquirer into facts relating to the medium preventive of cohesion of surfaces would not hesitate to adopt the generally received opinion, that it is a palpable serous fluid, definite in quantity when produced by the healthy action of vessels?

Let reflection extend to the ventricles of the brain, and to the parts surrounding those central caverns; to hydrocephalus; to edema, and every hydropic affection; and what different conceptions would be formed, of diagnoses, and remedial processes, from those which would necessarily follow the erroneous notion of a medium, which did not regularly distend, sustain, and give the tension of life to every part.

What error in judgment must have followed the supposition of a void, at any time, in dilatable organs, having muscular investment, as stomach, intestine, and bladder; or of an inherent power of dilatation in those organs! How often, upon anatomical examination, or chirurgical inquiry, is rugose stomach, rugose bladder, considered as the effect of morbid action; although only of the regular expulsive function of surrounding muscular fibres!

Physiological errors lead to dangerous consequences.

Crimson lines, in absorbent vessels leading to lymphatic glands, are commonly supposed to

indicate absorbed virulent matter: whereas, the speaker, from long and steady observation, can aver, that the contrary is the general truth.

If there be, in any mind, doubt on this point, how important that it should be removed; and, that opinion in the particular case should rest on universal admission of fact!

How often have the lives of men, beloved and revered for their virtues, and scientific endowment, fallen sacrifices to different, yet equally erroneous, hypotheses, relating to expressions of actual, or apprehended, virulence by absorption!

Let not the speaker be supposed to deny, that expression of inflammation of an absorbent vessel may co-exist with the current of a poison in it: rarely, however, does such an expression occur, from the certain absorption of variolous matter, of syphilitic virus, or of the vaccine lymph; but frequently is the sign expressed from a wound by a clean metallic instrument, or from a fragment of undiseased bone.

What notions are generally entertained of organic alteration of the prostate gland: how frequent the declaration of its schirrous condition!

Not any part of the human body may have absolute exemption, by organization and implanted disposition, from such a distinctive disease.

But a long period of anatomical research affords to the recollection of the speaker, only one instance of morbid affection of the prostate, which he could properly designate schirrus.

The morbid character of schirrus doth not admit of favourable alteration; but only to the carcinomatous condition.

Other distinctions of induration, and enlargement, of the prostate gland, are within the sphere of curative consideration.

How encouraging are such reflections to the persevering exercise of judgment, and skill! How consolatory to sufferers, otherwise unsustained by the hope of relief!

That revered promoter of anatomical and chirur-

gical knowledge, CHESELDEN, has somewhere recorded, that the divided portions of a fractured patella would not become united by an osseous medium: and this opinion was maintained, at no great distance of time, by the excellent Mr. WARNER.

But a fractured patella will become united by a firm bony production; under the laws of ossification, which direct the process of union of every other divided bone. In every case of fractured bone, union will necessarily have relation; to the sphere of ossifying disposition of the preparative vessels, which, in the patella, appears to be very limited; to the proximity of the divided portions; and to various other relative circumstances; not to mention chirurgical treatment, as conformably, or not, to correct notions of muscular action.

The physiological error, thus gravely sanctioned, would not be important as to the event of union of a fractured patella, whether by a bony or a ligamentous medium, as either would be efficient: but arguments might be maintained, and erroneous conclusions drawn, relating to the general ossifying

power of the vessels of the divided parts of bone, from the admission of the error.*

The illustrious Pott has observed, that ligatures on the omentum proved fatal.

If, in consequence of the excision of omentum, in the operation for hernia, a considerable portion of omentum be included in a ligature; the effect upon the colon, stomach, and diaphragm, would be such as fatally to maintain, or to renew, the hernial symptoms.

Whereas, should ligatures be made on single, or detached vessels; the cords be loosely brought out; and the omentum returned, in such a manner as freely to expand and float in the abdomen; no evil, from the ligatures, would ensue.†

Thus far, encouraged by your attention, Your orator has ranged within the views of the society.

Admit now a few excursive ideas, the influence

* Appendix.

† Appendix.

of which may promote the principal objects of this society.

Men entitled to philosophical consideration, will hold in due respect natural truths, although, at the time of their discovery, or promulgation, not any consequential benefit be foreseen: such unquestionably are the impelling reflections of the arctic explorators.

The single facts, from the mind, and by the hand, of HUNTER, contemplated with reference to their original isolated character; and to the important illustrations of healthy and morbid actions which they have since afforded; will powerfully encourage every attempt to enlarge the catalogue of simple physiological, and pathological, truths; and to extend the beneficial application of the elementary ideas of HUNTER.

Have the elucidations of his interesting doctrine of sympathy corresponded with the advances of neurology?*

* The successful labours of PROFESSOR BELL will aid and animate expositors of HUNTER.

Has the knowledge of the universal inosculation of arteries, and of their dilatation in the ratio of their diameters, under certain impressions of necessity, been extended far beyond aneurismal subjects?

Has such knowledge been applied to the correction of morbid disposition; and to the removal of its consequences, as expressed by tumours of various descriptions?

The power vested in animal life, of accommodation to the variable influence of atmospheric heat, requires further illustration; and application to beneficial purposes.

Have the observations, relating to inflammation of trunks of veins, and of absorbents, been pursued by remarks on the inflammatory action of myriads of capillary veins, of absorbents; and its consequences on the heart, on the arterial system, and on the blood?

Have the decisive experiments, and observations, on the menstrual power of the gastric liquor, been followed by investigations, with the direct view of

ascertaining the influence of agents in regulating the secreting function of the stomach?

Have the progressive differences of diameter in the intestinal tube been duly considered, by reasoners on its regular functions; its irregularities of action; and on its diseases? *

The deadly effect on the brain, from the inspiration of highly carbonated air; or, of the retention of the carbonic principle, by impeded respiration; is well known.

Has the knowledge of such power been applied, by observations on the effects of air, deeply laden with the deleterious gas, but not in an immediately fatal degree; on particular nerves; blood vessels, and absorbents; by topical, or by circuitous impression; on inflammation, from light causes; on characters of inflammatory action; on paralytic expressions?

Science binds, in interesting union, good men of all countries; whence the harmony of nations: it is a

* Measurements, by inches, in circumference, of the small, and the large, intestines, inflated: from the same subject.——Duodenum, at its commencement, $5\frac{1}{2}$—Ilium, at its termination, $3\frac{1}{4}$—Cæcum $11\frac{1}{2}$—Colon, at its commencement, $10\frac{1}{4}$; at its termination, near the sigmoid flexure, 5.

charm against envy, and jealousy; and renders gentle the human heart, while it expands the faculties of the mind!

Hail, then, with grateful feeling, as a blessing to the world, the communication, from France, of the extraction, by sulphuric acid, of a principle from peruvian bark, possessing, with highly concentrated power, the medicinal virtue of the aggregate.

Has the knowledge of this fact been extended to inquiry, whether there existed in other cortical substances, in roots, and ligneous parts, a similar principle; having in it the known specific property of the body in which it is a constituent?

This discovery enlivens in the mind, the chemical development, by Sir Humphrey Davy, of metallic bases in certain salts.—Has this curious subject been cultivated subserviently to objects of medicine?

The mineral kingdom has long been the busy seat of research; and thence, by chemical agency, have been produced most efficient remedies.

The vegetable creation presents an inexhaustible source of objects of unknown virtues.

The extraordinary properties of some productions stimulate to inquiry. Who can contemplate the effect of belladonna upon the iris, without the most lively feelings?

The Hon. ROBERT BOYLE laudably endeavoured to excite attention to the subject of specific remedies.

Ideas of corrective influence on distinct parts, morbidly affected, are certainly consistent with physiological opinions, relating to the original frame, and implanted disposition, of organs.

Natives of American regions, boast of eminent virtues in some of their indigenous plants. Have such countries been visited by medical travellers, for the purposes of scientific investigation? *

Missionaries to foreign parts, in their well-founded zeal for the good of mankind, might properly incline their minds to this subject.

* Inhabitants of North America inform us, that the handsome perennial, *Phytolacca, Solanum americanum*, vulgarly *Pock Weed*, possesses medicinal

These glances over the wide expanse of cultivation in view, naturally produce a sentiment of congratulation :—that, at this time, in the COLLEGE OF SURGEONS; such a spirit of research as animates CUVIER; such an energetic disposition as actuated BICHAT; are in powerful manifestation, by faithful pupils of HUNTER.

What complacent feelings accompany the contemplation of characters, who were eminent for their virtues, and endowments!—The tribute of respect, from this society, is due to the memory of the late honourable member, JOHN MEYER, M. D.; in whom were united, profound learning; inflexible integrity; exemplary professional conduct; discerning charity; and distinguished urbanity.

Here your speaker would close his address; but humanity impels him a step further.

A morbid action occurs in the human frame; direful in its progress to a fatal issue; causing general commiseration, and dismay; and claiming the ex-

quality: the Woodpigeons are said to feed on its berries, the juice of which is of a beautiful purple colour. Do the bones of such Pigeons acquire a similar tint?

ertion of all the faculties of man, for prevention of the evil, or the relief of sufferers under its awful visitation: such is Hydrophobia; a disease too clearly defined to have its existence denied, except by ignorant, or artful and designing, persons.

The speaker, having had many lamentable opportunities of observation on Hydrophobia, will attempt to cast a ray of elucidation on the subject.

The first of the instances of Hydrophobia which happened under his notice, long ago, was in a child, who had been bitten in the lip by a rabid dog. The wound healed kindly, in a few days, by simple applications; and musk and cinnabar were internally administered, by the attendant practitioner.

The child was too young to have any consciousness of danger; nor had the parents apprehension of any, subsequently to the healing of the wound; until about the 21st day, when, the child having past two or three restless nights, the disease became decidedly formed, and soon terminated fatally.

Assurances have been received of several occurrences of Hydrophobia, from bites of rabid animals;

in children too young to have been seriously impressed by the influence of the mind, and only sensible of painful feeling in the part affected.

Such histories are against the admission; that Hydrophobia is the consequence of workings of imagination.

A young woman, servant to a clergyman, at Hoxton, a patient of the late laborious cultivator of natural knowledge, Mr. PARKINSON, had been in the practice of feeding and caressing a favourite dog.

The animal became, and died, rabid; without her apprehension of its condition.

The season was winter, and her hands were much chapped from cold. She had suffered the dog freely to lick her hands; but the creature had not bitten, nor had ever attempted to bite her.

Nothing extraordinary occurred in her hands: but, after about three weeks, she was seized with unequivocal symptoms of Hydrophobia; and thereupon sent to the London Hospital; where, after in-

effectual endeavours for her relief, she died, a victim to her undistinguishing kindness.

This case surely expresses disease by absorption.

There was no painful infliction of wound to justify a supposition, that the disease was the consequence of the local impression of a stimulus, sui generis, operating upon the nervous system; on the encephalon; and, ultimately, with fatal influence, on various organs of the body.

Writers of unquestionable veracity have asserted, that, about the period of the accession of Hydrophobia, the wounded part, which had been some time healed and easy, became painful, and manifested signs of irritation.

The admission of the fact, of a local morbid action, preceding, or accompanying, the symptoms of general influence upon the system, must necessarily incline the mind to a most important conclusion; strengthened by considerations of the analogies of events in the experiments of HUNTER, relating to effects

on the insertion of variolous matter; and, since, by remarks in the practice of vaccination.

On reasoning a priori, without practical evidence, excision of the part bitten by a rabid animal, would naturally be considered as the process which should be adopted, in prevention of the dreaded evil: and which, at any time before the morbid action has begun in the wounded part, would be performed with probability of success. Positive evidence can be only on the side of inefficacy: but the mass of presumptive evidence of success, by the practice of excision, is so considerable, as nearly to approach positive weight of argument.

Towards confirmation of a process thus founded, the speaker can assert, that, in the numerous instances of his performance of it, at the London Hospital, and on private calls, at various periods from the time of the bite, not a single consequence of Hydrophobia has occurred.

Some Surgeons have doubted the efficacy of excision, from their knowledge of its failure. But no person would pronounce this practice as invariably

preventive of disease, who has well considered the different circumstances under which excision may be performed; the divers susceptibilities of the human frame; the possible varieties in the depth, and extent of the wound by the bite; the not improbable diffusion, far beyond the wounded part, of influence from the saliva of the rabid animal; and the chance of inattention, or unskilfulness, in the performance of the operation, as often is illustrated in vaccination.

Another fact, without comment, and your speaker will no longer detain his patient auditors.

A few months ago he saw a young man at Poplar, who, some time before, had been bitten by his own dog; which had become, unquestionably, rabid.

This person was in the deepest condition of Hydrophobia.

An injection of Tobacco was recommended, and immediately administered; which, so far relieved him of all convulsive agonies on the presentation of any liquid, that he calmly took in his hand, and

drank, such a fluid as before had occasioned most revolting distress.

Mr. STARKEY, Surgeon, at Limehouse, was called to this person, upon the accession of Hydrophobia; not before.

The detail of this case, which terminated fatally, will, more properly than on the present occasion, be doubtless, the subject of a paper to this Society.*

* The history of this interesting case has since been transmitted, by Mr. STARKEY, to Mr. COOKE, of Trinity-square, Honorary Secretary to the Hunterian Society.

The following brief narrative may not be considered foreign to the above remarks on the subject of Hydrophobia. A man, admitted into the London Hospital, on occasion of an accident, was seized with trismus, and other signs of approaching general tetanus. A tobacco injection removed all the symptoms. The ordinary effects of the clyster were so powerfully felt by him, and thence his dread of a repetition of them such, that, on another injection being proposed, with the view of confirming the benefits obtained, he left the Hospital; and went to Mr. RUTHERFOORD, of Ratcliff-Highway, Surgeon: whose report of this man is, that he has not experienced any degree of return of spasmodic complaint. Thus the one clyster appears to have effected his cure: a second, unless of much reduced strength, would, probably, have been fatal.

RESPECTED AUDITORS:

Accept the cordial acknowledgments of your Orator, for your attention to the observations, on various topics, which age, experience, and sincerity, have emboldened him to offer.

May the liberal confidence of the world in the professional character, be ever maintained; by a faithful devotion of time, and talent, in the service of suffering humanity; and by uniform respect for the peaceful order, and happiness, of the community!

And, may that POWER, which, by mysterious influence, regulates the works of creation, and governs the designs of men, perpetuate the HUNTERIAN SOCIETY, in the exercise of the good principles on which it is founded!

APPENDIX.

OBSERVATIONS

ON A STRETCHING FORCE APPLIED TO MUSCLE;
AND ON THE TREATMENT OF A TRANVERSE FRACTURE OF
THE PATELLA;

read on the 10*th of* JANUARY, 1821, *before the*

Hunterian Society;

BY

SIR WILLIAM BLIZARD, KNT.
THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THAT INSTITUTION

RATIONAL Surgery is founded on anatomical, and physiological knowledge.

Practitioners often imitate their predecessors, without inquiry into the rationality of their imitative practice.

The consideration of a law of the animal economy will justify this assertion.

The quiescent state of a muscle is affected by any preternatural stretching force; and various, and often most important, are the consequences of such an occurring extension.

The least degree of such force on the diaphragm occasions singultus, and all the distressing irregular actions of that muscle.

If a pulling effect be produced on the stomach, vomiting ensues: and thus, from similar excitement, effects will occur, according to structure, connection, and office, in every part of the intestinal canal.

Ligatures on a mass of the omentum, necessarily brings into inordinate, and fatal action, the intestines, stomach, and diaphragm: whence the various symptoms of hernia.

But illustrations might be drawn from the consideration of the effects of a stretching force, according to the structure and function of every organ of the body.

In every case of such force, the natural endeavour is, to free and save the part from its effects: thus, as upon many other occasions, the endeavour is beneficent, although the consequences may prove fatal.

If a muscular part, stretched by some force, and suffering from it, be divided, ease immediately succeeds.

Convulsive actions, extending fatally through the muscular system, have followed the violence of a single ligature on a muscle.

Further general remarks would be unnecessary. The design of this paper is, the application of a physiological principle to a case of chirurgical treatment.

The general procedure in the occurrence of a tranverse fracture of the patella, appears to be, to make a circular bandage above, and,

another below, the knee; and, by connecting them, to approximate the divided portions of the bone.

This practice, the author has long considered, and, in his judgment, demonstrated, to be erroneous.

So long as the upper circular ligature be continued, the extensor muscles will act, to extricate themselves from the resisting force; and thus will, generally, in a considerable degree, frustrate the intention of the bandages.

Without dwelling on this part of the subject, the following has been the author's simple, and successful, practice, at the London Hospital.

In one brief sentence: the practice is merely negative.

Not any bandage whatever is applied; even little regard is had to position: in most cases, however, the patient is kept lying, with the leg extended.

Some time since, mention was made to several members of this society, that there were then two cases in the Hospital, under the explained treatment. One case terminated in a firm bony union of the divided parts: the other by a short ligamentous medium. Both patients left the Hospital with perfect freedom of motion of the knee joint.

Circular bandage, especially if applied during any degree of inflammatory action, is not unfrequently the cause of adhesion and rigidity of the tendinous and surrounding cellular parts, very unfavourable to the motions of the limb.

A lady received a fracture of the patella, which was treated by bandages; and, after a ligamentous union, adhesions were found to have been formed, and to prevent the motions of the joint. Many months after, she had an accident which separated the united parts of the patella, and loosened the adhesions: she was now treated without any bandage; the parts united, and her Surgeon informed the author, a few days ago, that the functions of the joint were restored.

The violent effort of the extensor muscles to save the body from falling, often occasions a separation of the broken portion of bone to a considerable distance up the thigh; where it would remain, unless removed by external means. But such removal is not in the least degree difficult, after the flurry of the muscular fibres has ceased. Gentle applications of the hand will effectuate the purpose, to the ordinary extent of elongation of the muscles.

The author's treatment of rupture of the tendon of the extensor muscles of the leg; of the tendo-achilles; and of fracture of the olecranon of the ulna; has long been according to the expressed principle of conduct.

The learned and highly respected rector of a neighbouring parish, had, lately, the tendon of the extensor muscles of the leg completely lacerated; in the like manner in which a transverse fracture of the patella happens. Not any bandage was employed: the divided parts became perfectly united, and the use of the limb restored.

A few months ago, a man was admitted into the Hospital, on account of the division of the tendo-achilles, by a cutting instrument. The author directed all the bandages which he found applied to be re-

moved ; the wound to be dressed superficially ; and the patient to be kept at rest in bed. The wound readily healed ; and the patient left the Hospital with the perfect use of the foot.

One observation will decisively express the propriety of every rational endeavour to avoid circular bandage in a fracture of the patella.

Such description of bandage is known to have impeded union in fractures of the bones of the upper, and lower extremities ; and must, therefore, be of injurious tendency, at least, in fractures of the patella.

THE
ENGRAVINGS.

THE Engravings were, long since, executed by the eminent JOHN HALL, Esq. R. A., from drawings by the excellent Draftsman EDWARD EDWARDS, Esq. Prof. of perspect. to the R. A.; and which Engravings may, probably, be considered as fine specimens of graphical art in anatomical representation.

The preparations of united patellæ were from the same subject (Oration, p. 17.)

A curious anecdote rests upon these preparations.—The late Mr. SHELDON applied to be permitted the examination of them, as he was preparing to publish on fractures of the patella: the preparations, in spirit, were immediately sent to him; with the request, that he would not have drawings from them, as engravings of them were made, and intended for publication. His work came out, with Engravings of these patellæ; which Engravings, he said, " were not copied *from the preparations; but were executed from memory.*"!

The original Drawing, from which the second Engraving was taken, is in the possession of the author's esteemed friend, Prof. MONRO, of Edinburgh.

A brief history of the case which gave occasion to the Drawing, will be the best explanation of the Engraving.

A man, in the London Hospital, was operated upon for inguinal hernia. The sae contained intestine, and omentum; the latter compacted into a firm rounded body, having a narrow neck, constricted at the ring. The intestine was returned. The condensed body of the omentum was cut off, at the contracted part of it: not any hemorrhage ensued; and the remainder of the contracted portion of the omentum, on the outside of the ring, was readily passed into the abdomen. All the hernial symptoms soon ceased; and he proceeded favourably, until the third or fourth day, when they were renewed with violence, and continued to his death.

The dissection, on this occasin, affords a striking proof, of the importance of anatomical inquiries into the seats and causes of diseases; and of the facilities which ought to be provided in hospitals for the performance of such duties.

The fatal cause of the renewal of the symptoms was immediately evident Adhesion to the peritoneam, of the incised extremity of the narrow part of the omentum, had been formed about an inch above the ring. The folds of the omentum from the transverse flexure of the colon, converging to the point of adhesion, finely illustrate Mr. POTT's observation of the fatal consequence of ligatures on the omentum (Oration, p. 18.) In this case, the colon, and all the parts connected with the omentum, were brought into a state of irritation, by the action of the abdominal muscles in respiration, and by various other causes.

From this dissection two practical rules are deducible.

1. Not to excise omentum at a narrow and contracted part; but beyond it, so that the remaining omentum may freely expand in the abdomen.

2, When arteries of the omentum require ligature, carefully to detach them by the elastic forceps, and to tie them most distinctly.

An opportunity soon occurred of proving the correctness of these deductions.

A servant, in the works of Mr. MINISH, then a manufacturer of muriate of ammonia, at Mile-End, was brought to the Hospital, in an urgent con-

dition of strangulated hernia. The author operated. The omentum was in the state described in the other case: the intestine was not sphacelated; it was returned: the ball of omentum was removed, by excision above the contracted and indurated part: several vessels required to be tied; which was done with distinctness: the remaining omentum, external of the ring, and the long and loose ligatures, were passed into the abdomen. The ligatures were never pulled; but left to spontaneous detachment. Not any adverse symptom arose; and the patient returned, well, to his laborious employment.

Since the period of this case, many confirmatory illustrations of its truths have been presented at the hospital.

The author is induced to present a third Engraving, for the purpose of introducing some additional observations, in illustration of the design of the Oration.

A man was admitted into the London Hospital, with a dislocated arm; which was presently reduced: he had also received great injury in the body; of which, principally, in a few days, he died.

The Engraving will produce a general idea of the laceration of parts surrounding the articulation: and will, moreover, afford an expression of the force of opinion, without inquiry whether it be founded in truth or error.

In the days of some anatomists, and surgeons, yet living, the difficulty often experienced in efforts to reduce a dislocated arm, was ascribed to a slit, produced, by the head of the bone, in the ligamentous parts; the edges of which slit tightly grasped the neck of the bone.

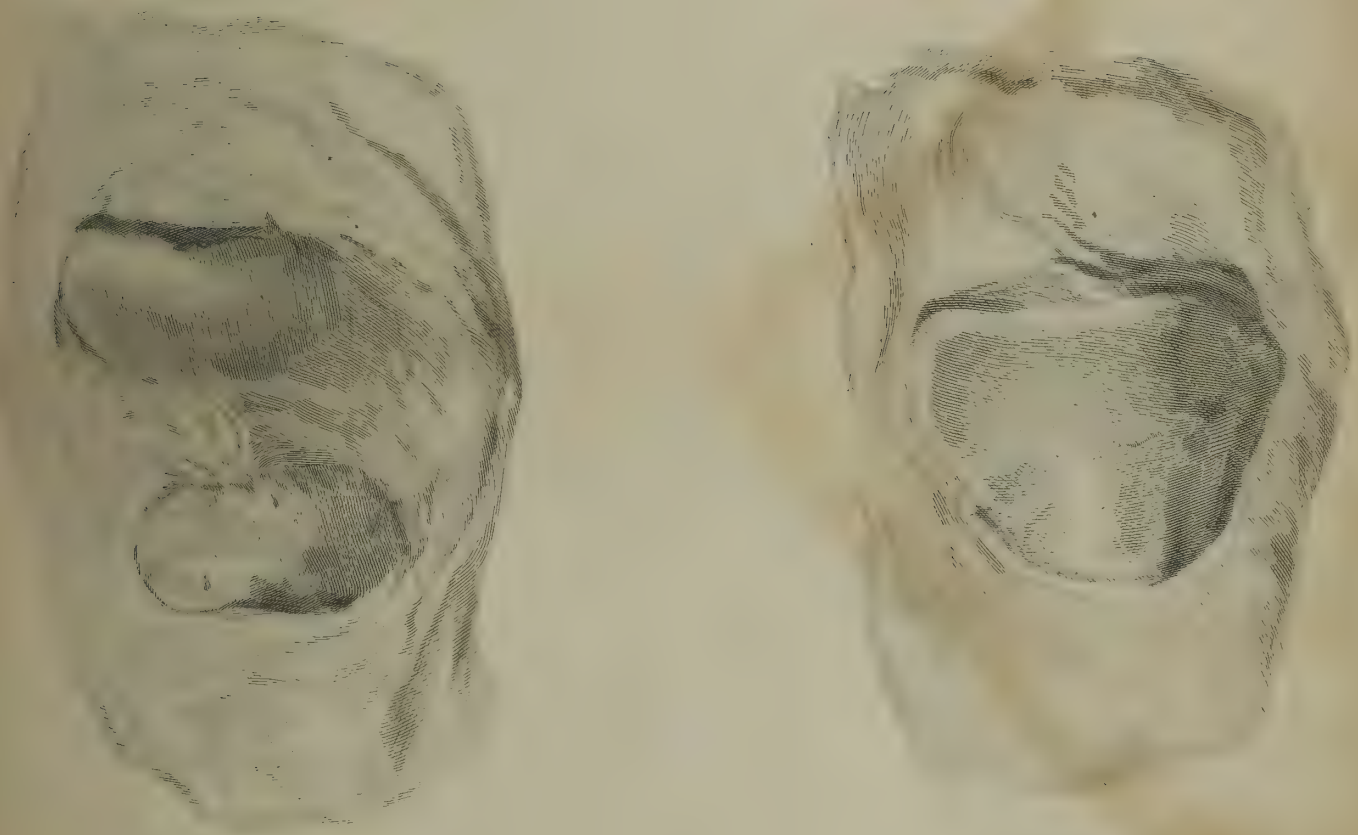
This "*vulgar error*" was demonstratively corrected by the illustrious Dr. William Hunter; and by the distinguished Henry Thomson, Esq., Surgeon to the London Hospital.

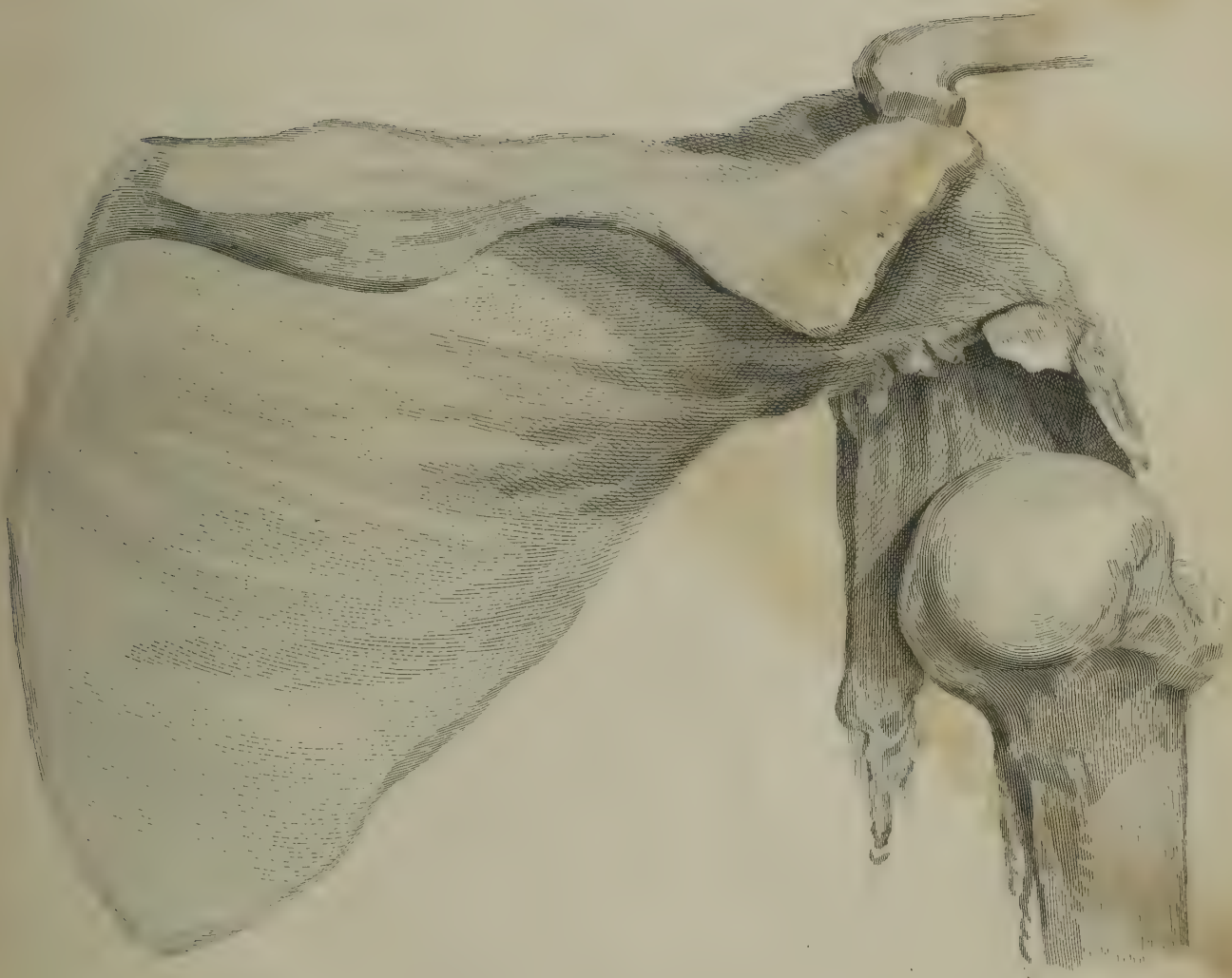
The Drawing, from which the Engraving was taken, was shewn to the universally recognised patron of anatomical and chirurgical science,

JOHN HUNTER; who examined it, with his accustomed attention to every endeavour for the improvement of chirurgical knowledge.

Even at this time, some surgeons appear to have only a confused notion of the structure, and connection, of synovial membrane: which is a perfect sac, reflected over the cartilages of every moveable articulation; as may be demonstrated, particularly when the articular surfaces of the cartilages have been frozen, after a little maceration in water.

CARPENTER & SON, Printers, Aldgate High-street.





SOON WILL BE PUBLISHED,

BY THE SAME AUTHOR,

A LECTURE;

INTRODUCTORY TO THE FIRST COURSE

OF LECTURES

DELIVERED IN THE THEATRE OF THE

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON.